General Assembly

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Agenda item 104

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/64/440 and Corr.1)]

64/178. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 63/194 of 18 December 2008 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and other relevant General Assembly resolutions on trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,[1]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/33 of 25 July 2008 on strengthening coordination of the United Nations and other efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 11/3 of 17 June 2009 on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[2]

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[3] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[4] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[5] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[6]

Recognizing that, in accordance with article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational crime and to promote and review the implementation of the

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[1] Resolutions 55/67, 58/137, 59/166, 61/144, 61/180 and 63/156.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/64/53), chap. III, sect. A.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[4] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[6] Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

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Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by facilitating the development and exchange of relevant information, programmes and practices, and by cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations and non-government organizations, and recognizing also that each State party shall provide the Conference of the Parties with information on its programmes, plans and practices, as well as legislative and administrative measures to implement the Convention,

Taking note of the decisions of the eleventh summit of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 30 June and 1 July 2008,[7] and of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh from 11 to 16 July 2009,[8] on fostering United Nations global action against human trafficking, the declaration of the European Union Ministerial Conference on the theme "Towards Global European Union Action against Trafficking in Human Beings", held in Brussels on 19 and 20 October 2009, and discussions at other subregional, regional and global forums[9] on the need to unite and coordinate efforts in combating trafficking in persons at the international level,

Recognizing the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recognizing also that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recognizing further the important role of the United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other intergovernmental organizations in ensuring effective and comprehensive coordination in the global fight against human trafficking,

Recognizing the need to continue fostering a global partnership against trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recognizing also that trafficking in persons impairs the enjoyment of human rights, continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response,

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[7] A/63/515, annex I, decision Assembly/AU/Dec.207 (XI).

[8] See A/63/965-S/2009/514, annex.

[9] For example, the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 26 to 28 February 2002; the European Union-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held in Tripoli on 22 and 23 November 2006; the Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 25 to 28 November 2008; the international conference on the theme "Human trafficking at the crossroads", held in Manama on 2 and 3 March 2009; and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference on the prevention of modern slavery, held in Vienna on 14 and 15 September 2009.

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations efforts in fighting trafficking in persons, as well as the elaboration of the International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,[10] among other efforts, to assist in implementing the Protocol,

Recognizing that the current global economic crises are likely to further aggravate the problem of trafficking in persons,

Aware of the need to raise public awareness with the aim of eliminating the demand for trafficking in persons, in particular for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour,

Reaffirming the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit[11] and at the 2005 World Summit[12] to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[13] and the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[10]

Welcoming also the report of the Secretary-General on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons[14] and the background paper submitted by the Secretary-General on 5 May 2009 to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session,[15]

Taking note of the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its fourth session, held in Vienna from 8 to 17 October 2008, in particular decision 4/4 of 17 October 2008 entitled "Trafficking in human beings",[16] in which the Conference of the Parties underlined the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the problem of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms and acknowledged that the Protocol was the principal legally binding global instrument to combat trafficking in persons, and in this regard taking note also of the progress made by the Conference of the Parties open-ended interim Working Group on Trafficking in Persons during its meeting held in Vienna on 14 and 15 April 2009,[17]

Taking note also of the interactive thematic dialogue of the General Assembly on the theme "Taking collective action to end human trafficking", held on 13 May 2009,

Welcoming the accession in 2008–2009 by a number of Member States to the Convention[18] and the Protocol,[19]

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[10] Available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html.

[11] See resolution 55/2.

[12] See resolution 60/1.

[13] See A/64/290.

[14] A/64/130.

[15] Available from www.un.org/ga/president/63/letters/SGbackgroundpaper.pdf.

[16] See CTOC/COP/2008/19, chap. I.

[17] See CTOC/COP/WG.4/2009/2.

[18] As of 29 September 2009: Bahamas (2008), Brunei Darussalam (2008), Indonesia (2009), Iraq (2008), Jordan (2009), Kazakhstan (2008), Liechtenstein (2008), Luxembourg (2008), Mongolia (2008), Qatar (2008) and Syrian Arab Republic (2009).

[19] As of 29 September 2009: Bahamas (2008), Dominican Republic (2008), Indonesia (2009), Jordan (2009), Kazakhstan (2008), Liechtenstein (2008), Luxembourg (2009), Malaysia (2009), Mongolia (2008), Qatar (2009), Togo (2009) and United Arab Emirates (2009).

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[3] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[4] and to implement fully all aspects of those instruments;

2. *Also urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[20] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[6] and to implement fully all aspects of those instruments;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken by human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for labour exploitation and sexual exploitation of children, to take measures to criminalize child sex tourism, to condemn the practice of trafficking in persons, and to investigate, prosecute, condemn and penalize traffickers and intermediaries, while providing protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights, and invites Member States to continue to support those United Nations agencies and international organizations that are actively involved in victim protection;

5. *Encourages* all stakeholders, including the private sector, to strengthen the coordination of efforts, including through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and regional and bilateral initiatives that promote cooperation and collaboration;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of comparable data disaggregated by types of trafficking in persons, sex and age, as well as of strengthening national capacity for the gathering, analysing and reporting of such data, and welcomes the efforts of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, drawing on the comparative advantages of the respective agencies, to share information, experiences and good practices on anti-trafficking activities of the partner agencies with Governments, other international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies;

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[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

7. *Acknowledges* the important work on data collection and analysis conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, by the International Organization for Migration through its global Counter-Trafficking Module database and by the International Labour Organization;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the President of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly to appoint the co-facilitators to start consultations and consideration by Member States of a United Nations global plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking, and stresses the need for the consultations to be held in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, taking into account all the views expressed by Member States;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandates on combating trafficking in persons, in conformity with its high priorities, and to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite, as appropriate, regional organizations to share information on challenges experienced and best practices in coordinating efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

65th plenary meeting
18 December 2009